MONEY SMART WEEK

SOUTH AFRICA 2025

Smart Money: Financial Foundations for a Resilient Future

Your Smart Money Playbook

Budget better.
Save wisely.
Borrow with purpose.

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Department:
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FSCA
Financial Sector Conduct Authority

GLOBAL MONEY WEEK

G20

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your future now
BAYPORT
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Welcome and how to use this booklet

Welcome to Money Smart Week at Bayport!

We're proud to be part of Money Smart Week South Africa 2025 – a national effort to help people across the country build stronger financial foundations. This booklet gives you simple, practical tools to take control of your money – one smart step at a time.

Use it to learn, share with your family, and start making better financial decisions today. Look out for Bayport events, coaching sessions, and giveaways during Money Smart Week!

Save this guide. Talk about it. Take action!

Build your budget

Take control of your income and stop the guesswork.

A strong financial future starts with one simple tool: a budget. That word might make you think of sacrifice or stress, but budgeting is really about freedom. It's the best way to make your money go further and stop living month-to-month.

If your money runs out before the month ends, or you are constantly wondering where it all went, it's time to stop guessing and start planning.

A budget is a monthly plan for your money. It helps you decide what to spend, what to save, and how to reduce debt. It's about saying yes to the things that matter most.

Step 1: Know what comes in and what goes out.

- List all your income (salary, grant, stokvel payout, side hustle).
- Write down all expenses (rent, transport, groceries, school fees, airtime, etc).

Step 2: Separate needs from wants.

- Highlight must-haves like food, rent, electricity, transport.
- Identify wants like takeaways, online shopping, entertainment.
- Cut back on wants if your expenses are more than your income.

Step 3: Set spending limits.

- Be realistic. Don't forget annual costs like school uniforms or license renewals.
- Use Bayport's free Budget Sheet to track your spending.

Budgeting with variable income?

- Use your average income over the last 3-6 months.
- Build your budget based on the lowest month's income.
- Save the extra when you earn more, to cover shortfalls.

Review your budget regularly. Progress, not perfection, is the goal.

Use the free Bayport budget tools

You'll find a printed budget template inserted into this booklet.
Prefer digital? **Download the printable and editable Excel versions at:**
https://www.bayport.co.za/budgeting-tools/

Save to stay strong

Build a buffer between you and life's surprises.

Saving protects you from emergencies and helps you reach your goals.
Even R50 a month is a win!

Why it matters? Life changes fast. Whether it's a medical emergency, car trouble, or a job loss, unexpected costs don't wait until you're ready. That's why every household needs a financial buffer.

What is an emergency fund? A savings pot set aside only for REAL emergencies (not birthdays or Black Friday deals). Think medical bills, urgent repairs, job loss.

How much should you save?

- Aim for 3 months of essential expenses.
- Start small: R50, R500 or R1 000. What matters is starting.

Pay yourself first

- Save before you spend.
- Set up a stop order on your bank account to make saving automatic.

Keep savings separate

- Use a separate account or digital wallet to avoid spending it.

Saving on a tight budget

- Save coins and small change.
- Cut back on one small thing a week.
- Sell unused items and stash the cash.

Try the 52-week savings challenge

- **Start with just R10 in week 1 and R20 in week 2.** You continue saving R10 multiplied by the number of that week, until you reach week 52. In a year, you could save R13 780, without even noticing at first. In week 52 you would need to save R520.
- **With the R1 plan you save R1 378.** In week 52 you would need to save R52.
- **With the R2 plan you save R2 756.** In week 52 you would need to save R104.
- **With the R3 plan you save R4 134.** In week 52 you would need to save R156.
- **With the R4 plan you save R5 512.** In week 52 you would need to save R208.
- **Start small if needed.** Consistency beats perfection.
  We have included a R2 plan on the back of your gameboard
- Want to really challenge yourself, or your friends? Choose a plan and work backwards, and see who saves the largest amount first!

You can download the printable 52-week savings plans here:
https://www.bayport.co.za/budgeting-tools/

Stick it on your fridge or mirror to track your progress and stay motivated!

Your emergency fund tracker

Your progress, your peace of mind – one small step at a time.

Mini milestone tip:

Break your savings goal into milestones. For example:

- **R500** = Emergency airtime or utilities
- **R1 000** = Basic groceries or transport costs
- **R2 500** = One month of all essentials

Celebrate small wins – it keeps you motivated!

Example:

Essential monthly costs = R2 500

Target = R7 500 (three months of essentials)

Start small: Save R50 a week = R2 600 in a year, one month's essentials!

Once you're used to R50, **increase it by cutting back elsewhere** (eg, one less takeaway or takeout coffee a week).

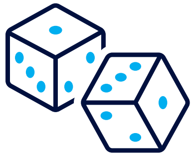
Every rand brings peace of mind!

Use a tracker to set your goal and monitor progress.

We have included a simple emergency fund tracker on the back of your gameboard.

Pro tip: Label your account "Emergency Only" or something fun like "Peace of Mind" or "Rainy Day Rescue" to stay inspired and disciplined.

Get ready to play Smart Money Moves



A fun way to learn serious money skills.

Learning about money should be fun! That's why we created the 'Smart Money Moves' game – a simple and exciting way for you and your family to learn financial basics.

You'll learn:

- How to budget
- Why saving matters
- What happens when you borrow recklessly
- How to avoid scams

Play it at home, at work, or in your community!

How it works:

The Smart Money Moves board game is included as a loose insert. As you play, you'll land on tiles that show smart financial choices (ladders) or money missteps (slides). **Each tile links to a section in this booklet – just look for the page number!** Players must read the related tip out loud from the booklet (or summarise it) before they move on.

Use these references to talk about what went right (or wrong), learn more, and grow your money confidence together.

Great for: family time, school workshops, team building, or personal reflection.

Smart moves start with you

What are SMART goals?

SMART is a simple way to plan your goals so they are easier to achieve:

S – Specific: What exactly do you want to achieve?
M – Measurable: How will you track your progress?
A – Achievable: Is it realistic with your current income?
R – Relevant: Does it match your needs or priorities?
T – Time-bound: When do you want to reach it?

Example SMART goal:

"I want to save R1 200 by December to buy new school shoes and supplies for my kids."
Specific: I'm saving for new school shoes and supplies for my kids.
Measurable: I need R1 200 in total.
Achievable: I can save R300 per month for 4 months to reach the goal.
Relevant: School shoes and supplies are essential for my children's education.
Time-bound: I will have the money by December.

In action: **R300 × 4 months = R1 200.** If I get extra income, I'll add it to reach my goal sooner.

Use this page to make a few smart promises to yourself.

We have given you a few ideas to help you get started:

My SMART money goals:

I will save R __________ every month for ____________________.

I will track my spending daily/weekly to stick to my budget.

I will cut back on _______________________ and save the difference.

I will build my emergency fund to R __________ by ____________________.

My SMART goal 1

____

____

My SMART goal 2

____

____

My SMART goal 3

____

____

Master your credit

Use credit the smart way – build, don't break.

Credit can open doors, if used wisely. Your credit score reflects how well you manage your debts.

What is credit? It's borrowed money you must repay with interest: store cards, loans, mashonisas, credit cards.

Understand your score A good score helps you access better offers. You can check yours for free once a year.

How to read your credit score

GREEN (Score: 634+)
You have good money habits and are considered a low-risk credit customer. This means you're likely keeping up with your credit payments and not falling behind.

Tip: *Continue making payments on time to maintain or even improve your score.*

ORANGE (Score: 616 to 633)
Your score suggests that you're under some financial pressure. Lenders may view you as a risk, which means you might not get the best interest rates.

Tip: *Focus on paying off high-interest debts first and avoid taking on new credit. This will help ease your financial strain and improve your score.*

RED (Score: 0 - 616)
Your score shows you may be struggling with debt. It's important to focus on improving your money habits to raise your credit score and avoid getting deeper into debt.

Tip: *Start by creating a budget to track your spending and prioritise paying off overdue accounts. Consider speaking to a financial advisor or credit counsellor for support.*

LISTED (Score: -2 to -6)
If you're listed, it means you're either under debt review, administration, or have been declared bankrupt (sequestrated).

Tip: *Follow the steps from your debt counsellor or administrator to rebuild your financial health. Once you're in a better position, consider options such as a consolidation loan to simplify repayments and support recovery.*

NO SCORE (-1)
You don't have enough credit history for the bureau to generate a score. This means there isn't enough data for lenders to assess your creditworthiness.

Tip: *Start by opening a small line of credit, such as a credit card or retail account, and make sure to pay it off in full each month to begin building your credit history.*

You can check your credit score for free once a year at www.experian.co.za or www.transunion.co.za

Or monthly, if you are registered with Bayport: www.bayport.co.za

Tackle your debt

One simple plan. Big financial relief.

Debt isn't always bad. But **unmanaged debt leads to stress.**

Start with a plan: The snowball method

1. List all your debts from smallest to biggest.
2. Pay the minimum on all of them.
3. Put any extra money toward your smallest debt.
4. Once that's paid, roll that amount into the next one, until that is paid, and so on.
5. Keep going – each payment grows like a snowball.

Each small win builds momentum and keeps you motivated.

So many people feel shame around money and debt. But remember: debt is **something you have**, **not who you are**. With support, knowledge, and small steps, you can rewrite your financial story.

Other smart debt strategies:

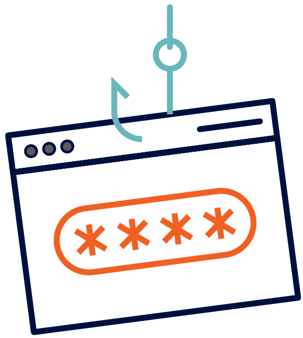
- **Negotiate lower interest rates** with your lender, it never hurts to ask.
- **Use windfalls wisely,** put bonuses, tax refunds or stokvel payouts towards paying off debt.
- **Consolidate debt** if you're overwhelmed by multiple repayments.

Avoid this trap:

Don't take out new debt to pay off old debt unless you've got a proper consolidation plan through a registered provider.

Protect your money

Be alert. Stay safe. Don't get scammed. Scams are everywhere. Stay sharp.



Scam safety tips

- Never share OTPs or PINs.
- Don't click on suspicious links.
- Be cautious of "too good to be true" offers.

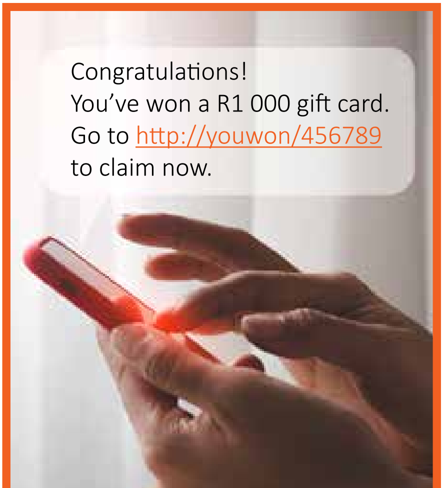
Common scams

- Fake job offers asking for fees.
- Prize notifications that need payment.
- Calls pretending to be your bank.

Loan scams

When dealing with a registered and regulated credit provider:

- You should **never pay any money or upfront fees** for a loan. **There are no agent or third-party fees** (legal fees, account verification) payable when taking out a loan.
- No agent should ever offer to "speed up" your application for a fee. If someone promises quicker approval or a better deal in exchange for an "admin fee" **– it's a scam!**
- Beware of people offering to "clear your name" or "fix your credit" overnight. **There's no quick fix for credit health.** Scammers will use your desperation to steal your money.
- Offers of **zero-interest loans** or **guaranteed approval with no documents**? That's fraud bait. Don't bite.



Report fraud immediately.

If something feels wrong – stop, check, and report it. Teach others too!

Plan your financial future

Your life, your goals – with a plan that protects it all.

A strong financial plan includes:

- A working budget
- Emergency savings
- Smart credit use
- Clear money goals
- Basic protection
- Long-term savings and investments
  (eg: tax free savings, retirement annuities, unit trusts)

Set SMART goals (see page 7)

- **Short-term (0–12 months):** pay off a clothing account, save for school needs, cover *Ke Dezemba* costs.
- **Medium-term (1–5 years):** save for a car, finish a qualification, or renovate your home.
- **Long-term (5+ years):** buy a home, start a business, invest for retirement, or build an education fund for your children.

Protect your progress

- Have funeral cover.
- Consider health, life and disability insurance.
- Write a simple will.
- Stay fraud aware.

Planning for retirement

The new two-pot retirement system lets you access some retirement savings early, but **think carefully before doing so. Ask yourself:**

- Is this really an emergency?
- Do I have other options?
- And **CAN I AFFORD TO TAKE LESS** in retirement?

Pro tip: Start early. Even R100 a month in a tax-free savings account, unit trust, or retirement fund can grow significantly over time, thanks to compound interest.

Your future matters. Plan for it.

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No more confusion.
No more delay.

Your future starts now – and it starts with just one smart money move.

Visit www.bayport.co.za for more tips and tools.

Sign up for the Bayport Academy: https://www.bayport.co.za/bayport-academy/

It's FREE ***and*** we pay for the data* you use.

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